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U.S. ADVISES CITIZENS TO AVOID INDIA TRAVEL, ISSUES GUIDELINES

Placing India on 'Level 4: Very high level' list, the Centers for Disease Control said even fully vaccinated people are at risk

EXCEPTION MADE FOR URGENT TRAVEL

The advisory, suggesting travellers to reconsider their itinerary, comes a day after the UK imposed similar restrictions on flying to India. The CDC, however, made exceptions for pressing cases with certain conditions. "If you must travel to India, get fully vaccinated. All travellers should wear a mask, stay 6 feet from others, avoid crowds, and wash their hands," it advised

PM CALLS OFF PORTO VISIT FOR EU SUMMIT

- Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Portugal for India-EU summit has been called off in view of the pandemic. The May 8 summit in the city of Porto would instead be virtual
- The change in plan for the 16th India-EU summit was decided after consultations with the EU and Portuguese leadership

80%

COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE BEEN DEEMED AS RISKY BY THE CDC ASSESSMENT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VIZIANAGARAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

COVID WARRIOR

An ambulance driver in a PPE suit takes a much-needed respite between rounds to the Summanahalli Crematorium in Bengaluru on Tuesday | VINOD KUMAR T

Save India from lockdown: PM

Says protecting lives and keeping economy moving are vital for national fightback

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi was emphatic in his address to the nation on Tuesday that lockdown was not the way out to contain the exponential growth of fresh Covid cases, urging state governments to focus on micro-containment strategies instead.

Stating that all efforts are being made for the wellbeing of the economy and the people, Modi said the country needs to be saved from lockdown, which should be the last resort for state governments.

Modi also referred to reports of migrants thronging railway stations and bus depots to return home, and urged state governments to instill trust in the labour force that their employment would remain protected while they will be expeditiously vaccinated at their places of work.

"I want to request the state administrations that they protect the trust of the labour force that they should stay where they are, and they will continue with their employment while they get vaccinated," he said.

Ensuring the labour force stays at their workplace is necessary for expeditious inoculation, as all above 18 years of age will be vaccinated from May 1, he pointed out.

"Efforts of all of us are to save the lives, and also to ensure that livelihood and the economy are least affected," he emphasised. His remarks came in the wake of a few of the state governments, including Delhi, imposing lockdown, which triggered panic among the migrant workers, wary as they are of a rerun of last year's exodus.

Reiterating his request for people's cooperation in enforcement of the Covid-19 appropriate protocol, Modi called upon the youth, including children, to follow the good practices in their neighbourhood. "If the protocols are followed, there will be no need even for containment zones," he said.

Reassuring the people that the Covid-19 situation will be expeditiously brought under control, Modi said medical oxygen supply is being ramped up in a big way while pharmaceutical companies have already increased production of necessary medicines to treat Covid patients

K'TAKA'S COVID FIGHT: NEW GUIDELINES

Statewide Night Curfew: 9 pm to 6 am, April 21 to May 4

WHAT IS ALLOWED		WHAT'S NOT	
Movement for essential activities, medical emergencies	Home delivery of goods, e-commerce	Commercial establishments and businesses	
Industries that work night shifts	**Long-distance buses, trains, air travel**	**Movement of people**	
Telecom and ISP staff, essential staff of IT & ITeS firms	Public transport, cabs plying from airports, railway stations and bus stops	All non-essential, non-emergency goods and services	
Pharmacies, fuel stations			

Rahul tests Covid +ve

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said he has tested positive for Covid-19. "After experiencing mild symptoms, I've just tested positive," he tweeted

Longer night curfew, weekend curbs

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Government on Tuesday announced weekend and night curfews across the State which will be in effect from Wednesday till May 4. These measures, to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the state, come with more stringent protocols and restrictions coupled with a near-total clampdown on weekends.

The night curfew, which was enforced in seven district headquarters between 10 pm and 5 am has been extended to the entire state and will now be in force from 9 pm to 6 am. The weekend curfew will be in force from 9 pm on Friday till 6 am on Monday during which even grocery stores, vegetable, meat, milk shops will function only between 6 am and 10 am. The stringent measures came hours after Governor Vajubhai Vala chaired an all-party meeting and green-signalled a full lockdown, if necessary.

Following PM Narendra Modi's appeal to state governments that lockdowns should be the last resort, Karnataka has refrained from total clampdown, but chose to implement weekend curfews and extend night curfews. "The Covid situation in Karnataka has reached severe proportions, forcing the government to take stringent actions. We have no option but to enforce strict restrictions," said Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. P4

STATEWIDE

	APRIL 19	APRIL 20
Fresh cases	15,785	21,794
Active cases	1,42,084	1,59,158
Deaths	146	149
Recoveries	7,098	4,571
Fresh cases in B'luru Urban	9,618	13,782

MAHA HEADED FOR FULL LOCKDOWN?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai / New Delhi

MAHARASHTRA, where lockdown-like restrictions are already in place since April 15, is headed for a 15-day total lockdown. The Cabinet meeting on Tuesday unanimously decided to impose strict lockdown from Wednesday night. The final announcement will be made by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday, health minister Rajesh Tope said. The Cabinet also decided to cancel Class 10 exam of the state board.

Tope said the state is facing a severe shortage of medical oxygen and Remdesivir injection, while hospital beds are fully occupied. "If we don't act now, things will be difficult to handle," he added.

Another minister, Jitendra Awhad, said Uddhav was initially reluctant to go for a complete lockdown but the ministers prevailed over him.

NATIONWIDE

	APRIL 19	APRIL 20
Fresh cases	2,72,191	2,94,115
Recoveries	1,44,178	1,54,761
Deaths	1,619	1,761

Maharashtra has 6,70,388 positive cases with 2,46,119 patients admitted in hospitals.

The situation in Delhi is equally bad with CM Arvind Kejriwal pleading the Centre "with folded hands" to rush medical oxygen. "Serious oxygen crisis persists in Delhi... Some hospitals are left with just a few hours of oxygen," he tweeted.

On Monday, the Delhi government had set up a 24-member committee to ensure "rational" use of medical oxygen for treatment of Covid-19 patients. P9

EXPRESS READ

Union Cabinet clears 2 Metro lines

Bengaluru: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday cleared two much-awaited lines of Bangalore Metro's Phase-II. The Phase-2A and Phase 2B lines, which totally run a distance of 58.19 km, were approved for a cost of Rs 14,788 crore, with a deadline of 4.5 years. The projected ridership on both the lines in 2026 is slated at 7.7 lakh. P2

KEEP CALM AND DEBATE ON

LET'S DEBATE

APR 21 | 6 PM | EDEXLIVE.COM

Chad Prez killed on battlefield

N'djamena (Chad): Chad's longtime President Idriss Deby Itno has died of wounds suffered during a visit to front-line troops battling rebels group, the military has announced. P11

Appoint ad-hoc judges if vacancy is 20%: SC

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over the large number of pending cases in high courts, the Supreme Court on Tuesday set the ball rolling for appointment of ad-hoc judges in HCs to clear pendency.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said, "We have a docket explosion in our country and that it is difficult for adjudication to take place within a reasonable period of time. This crisis situation must be tackled. Some innovation is always the rule of the game."

Timeline for appointing HC judges

The Supreme Court also specified a timeline of 3-4 weeks for appointing HC judges if its Collegium reiterates a name

The bench said the process to appoint ad-hoc judges can be initiated if vacancies are more than 20% of the sanctioned strength of the high court and cases in a particular category are pending for over five years.

The court clarified that ad-hoc appointments cannot be a substitute for regular ones. The number of ad-hoc judges should be between two and five in a high court, it added.

Citing data from the National Judicial Data Grid, the court said five high courts — Allahabad, Punjab & Haryana, Madras, Bombay, and Rajasthan — are responsible for 54% of the pendency of over 57,51,312 cases.

"The Madras High Court has among the highest arrears in the country of 5.8 lakh cases despite having fewer vacancies than most other high courts (7%). This does not take away from the requirement of appointing ad-hoc Judges but supports the view that even if the existing vacancies are few, a situation may arise requiring the expertise of experienced Judges to be appointed as ad hoc Judges," the court held.

The court also laid down timelines for the government take a call on appointment of judges. The bench said that once the Centre receives inputs of state government and the Intelligence Bureau (IB), it would be desirable that the file be forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium within 8 to 12 weeks. Once the Collegium reiterates a proposal, the government should notify the appointment within 3-4 weeks.

Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Honourable Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka
A Heartfelt Thank you from all Bengalureans
To
Sri Narendra Modi
Honourable Prime Minister of India
for the Landmark decision
The Union Cabinet has given approval for Namma metro Phase 2A (Central Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram – 19.75 km & 13 Stations) and Phase 2B (K.R. Puram to Airport via Hebbal Junction – 38.44 km & 17 Stations) at a cost of Rs. 14,788 crores with a completion period of 5 years.
With the implementation of these two stretches, Bengaluru's public transport and economic potential will get much needed boost.
namma metro
Wear Mask
Follow Physical Distance
Maintain Hand Hygiene

No exams for Std 1-9; Summer break from May 1

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

AFTER almost a full year of attending classes from home, students of Classes 1 to 9 will now not have to physically write the exams. And they can even look forward to the summer break, come May 1.

The Primay and Secondary Education Department has decided that children will not be asked to physically attend examinations for Classes 1-9. Instead, the Continuous & Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) programme will be the deciding factor for promoting these students, Minister S Suresh Kumar announced on Tuesday.

Schools are expected to complete the process of declaring results by April 30, and the summer vacations will begin from May 1. For schools with primary level up to Standard 7 or 8, the summer vacation will be from May 1 to June 14, and the next academic year will begin from June 15. Summer holidays for high school students of Classes 8 and/or 9 will be from May 1 to July 15. The academic year 2021-22 for high schools will commence from July 16.

Unachieved learning outcomes will be addressed as part of a bridge course during the commencement of next academic year

Anbu Kumar, Commissioner of Public Instruction

A department official told TNIE that a majority of private schools have completed their examinations, but for those which have not, a summative assessment (at the end of the academic year) done so far can be considered. "At government schools, a formative assessment (done when they're taught in class) will be held," he explained. In a communiqué, Commissioner for Public Instruction, Anbu Kumar, said the evaluation and the results must be a tool only for assessing the learning capabilities of the children. P4